



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Acquisition of Drafting Computer and Software for the Public Works Department - Engineering Division

MEETING DATE: March 20, 1991

PREPARED BY: Public Works Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the purchase of a microcomputer from Hall-Mark Electronics and software for drafting and appropriate \$14,100 for the system.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Engineering Division has been using a dedicated computer drafting system (Accugraph) since 1987 for mapping and construction plans. This system runs on a minicomputer with three terminals. Hardware maintenance and software support/upgrade costs are approximately \$8,700 per year. The system is due for an upgrade due to reduced response times, mainly in working with large City maps. Upgrade options include upgrading the minicomputer microprocessor and disc storage system; and upgrading the software to Accugraph's next product, which would require purchase of Unix-based workstations (new computers). The preferred alternative, however, is to replace the system with a microcomputer (PC) based product "AutoCAD".

One PC with a copy of AutoCAD was approved in the current budget and has been purchased. As described in the attached "Special Allocation Request", the system has performed far better than anticipated and most of the maps on the old system have been transferred to the new system. To fully replace the old system, we will need to: 1) add two more PCs with AutoCAD, and 2) link the PCs on a local area network (LAN). We are still investigating appropriate network hardware and software and will make this request in the normal budget cycle. However, we have an immediate need for one of the two additional PCs. Our technicians find themselves "in-between" on which system to use for some tasks and we must manage both instead of one system. We cannot function on only one drafting PC. In addition, the City can save approximately \$2,700 this fiscal year by cancelling hardware maintenance and software support on the old system.

We also request to purchase this PC from the same vendor we used earlier this fiscal year. That purchase, which included four other microcomputer systems for use elsewhere in the Department, was done under a formal bid. Hall-Mark Company was the low bidder and has performed satisfactorily and has offered this system at the same price (or lower on some components). Their price is still lower than the manufacturer's (Hewlett-Packard) latest quoted price including a government discount. Thus, we feel it is in the City's best interests to waive the formal bidding process for this purchase.

APPROVED: _____

Thomas A. Peterson

THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager

NOT FOR RELEASE

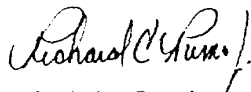
CC-1

CCOMPUTE/TXTW.02M (CO.COM)

March 13, 1991

Drafting Computer
March 20, 1991
Page 2

FUNDING: \$4,700 each: Water, Wastewater and Gas Tax Funds


for Jack L. Ronsko
Public Works Director

Prepared by Richard C. Prima Jr., Assistant City Engineer

JLR/RCP/mt

Attachment

CITY OF LODI
SPECIAL ALLOCATION REQUEST

TO: FINANCE DIRECTOR
CITY MANAGER

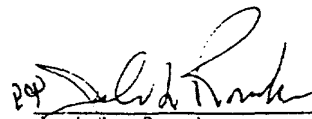
DATE: March 4, 1991

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

ACCOUNT NUMBER: See Distribution

Request is made for funds to accomplish the following project which was not included in the current budget.

<u>Description of Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Drafting Computer and Software (See Attached Supplemental Information)	 \$ 14,100.00



Jack L. Ronsko
Public Works Director

(If you need more space, use additional sheet and attach to this form.)

Date of Approval _____	Amount Approved _____
Council _____	City Manager _____

FUND OR ACCOUNT TO BE CHARGED

Current Budget \$ _____	Prior Year Reserve \$ _____
Contingent Fund \$ _____	General Fund Surplus \$ _____
Capital Outlay Reserve \$ _____	Reimbursable Account \$ _____
Utility Outlay Reserve \$ _____	Other: (Specify) _____
	\$ _____ Account Number _____

Robert H. Holm, Finance Director

Thomas A. Peterson, City Manager

Submit this form in duplicate to the Finance Director. Distribution after approval will be as follows: 1) Originating Department 2) Finance Department

SAFIN91.05/TXTW.01L

Supplemental Information

Special Allocation Request
Drafting Computer and Software

The 1990/91 Budget included funds for the purchase of a microcomputer and software (AutoCAD) as a supplement to the existing, dedicated drafting system (Accugraph). This purchase has been made and the system is being used. In fact, we have found that it is much more capable of handling our drafting needs than we anticipated at the time the budget request was prepared one year ago. Thus we wish to purchase another system now and begin to phase out the existing system. Future budget requests will be made for a third drafting PC and a network to link the systems. The reasons include:

- 1) More Powerful Hardware - New model PC's and video systems at lower relative cost allowed us to purchase a much more powerful system than anticipated. Thus AutoCAD runs as fast (and in some cases, faster) than our present system on the work that we do.
- 2) Better Software - One year ago, AutoCAD Release 10 was the latest version. The new version (Release 11) became available in the fall and included two important features - network support and drawing cross reference capability (the ability to use one drawing inside another without making it permanent, i.e. changes in one are reflected in the other). These are two key features that were a deciding factor in selecting the Accugraph software four years ago. We have tested the new system with large City Maps and are comfortable with its ability to do the job. In addition, the link to our surveying software is significantly better than with the Accugraph system.
- 3) Trained Personnel - As noted in last year's budget request, AutoCAD has become a standard in the industry and is commonly taught at Community Colleges and other institutions. Our newest Engineering Technician, Robert Anderson, is proficient in AutoCAD as well as our intern, Scott Barnes. In addition, Jeannie Matsumoto has been taking AutoCAD classes at San Joaquin Delta College on her own time. It is obvious to us that future technicians, even at the entry level are likely to know AutoCAD, plus saving the City considerable time and expense in training.
- 4) Cost Savings - The Accugraph system has been on hardware and software support at a cost of \$8,700 in Fiscal Year 1990/91. We have found no need for PC hardware support and have had relatively little need for software help other than at initial purchase and at upgrades (especially in dealing with "bugs" in the upgrade). The price of AutoCAD (\$2,300) includes some dealer support and upgrades are charged on a one-time basis (for example, the Release 10 to 11 upgrade cost \$500). Thus, over a few years, we will recover the cost of the PC and software in reduced annual costs.

Timing

We are making this request rather than waiting for the next budget for three reasons:

- 1) We can save \$2,700 this fiscal year by canceling the remainder of our hardware and software support.
- 2) Knowing that we wish to make this change has put our personnel in an awkward position as to which system to use for which task. They feel it is a waste of effort to do more work on the old system knowing we are moving to a new one. In addition, we have one new technician and are recruiting to fill a vacancy. It would be pointless to do any training on the old system.

SAFIN91.05/TXTW.01L

- 3) Using only the single AutoCAD PC creates a "bottleneck" in getting surveying and drafting work processed.

The cost of the additional PC system is:

Hewlett Packard PC with 20" monitor and Graphics Tablet	\$10,600.00
AutoCAD license	\$ 2,300.00
Misc. Accessories	<u>\$ 400.00</u>
Subtotal	\$13,300.00
Sales Tax	<u>\$ 800.00</u>
Total	\$14,100.00

The recommended cost distribution is the same as
that approved for the system purchased 1990/91:

1/3 Water Fund	(\$4,700.00)
1/3 Wastewater Fund	(\$4,700.00)
1/3 Street Fund (TDA or Gas Tax)	(\$4,700.00)

#134

CITY OF LODI
SPECIAL ALLOCATION REQUEST

TO: Finance Director

DATE: March 21, 1991

FROM: City Clerk

PROJECT NUMBER: 017.1-012.32-S15 4700
018.1-012.27-S15 4700
024.0-012.05-S15 4700

Request is made for funds to accomplish the following project which was not included in the current budget:

<u>Description of Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Purchase of microcomputer for the Public Works Department - Engineering Division from Hall-Mark Electronics and software for drafting	

Amount - \$14,100

\$4,700 each: Water, Wastewater and ^{TDA} Gas Tax Funds
~~for Rd. Funds~~

(If you need more space, use additional sheet and attach to this form)

Date of Approval - 3/20/91

Amount Approved - \$14,100

Council XXXXX

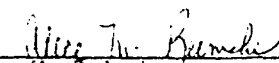
City Manager

FUND OR ACCOUNT TO BE CHARGED

Current Budget	\$		Prior Year Reserve	\$	
Contingent Fund	\$		General Fund Surplus	\$	
Capital Outlay Reserve	\$		Reimbursable Account	\$	
Utility Outlay Reserve	\$		TRANSPORTATION FUND		
Hotel/Motel Tax Reserve -			Other (Election)	\$	4700
General Fund Operating Reserve			WATER CAPITAL		4700
			SEWER		4700

Account Number


Robert H. Holm, Finance Director


Alice M. Reimche,
City Clerk

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